

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Cartersville Historic District

other names/site number VDHR File No. 24-126

## 2. Location

street & number High (Main) St., Church St., Tavern Rd., and State Rte. 45 ☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Cartersville ☐ vicinity N/A

state Virginia code VA county Cumberland code 049 zip code 23027

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Don C. Miller  
Signature of certifying official/Title

5 May 1993  
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 221 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Cartersville Historic District  
Name of Property

Cumberland County, VA  
County and State

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>51</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>53</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
RELIGION: religious structure  
COMMERCE: restaurant  
COMMERCE: specialty store

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
RELIGION: religious structure  
GOVERNMENT: post office

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL  
QUEEN ANNE  
COLONIAL REVIVAL

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls WOOD: weatherboard  
BRICK  
roof STONE: slate  
other WOOD  
METAL: tin

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Cartersville Historic District  
Name of Property

Cumberland County, VA  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1780s to 1940

### Significant Dates

N/A

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

unknown

VA Department of Historic Resources  
221 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Cartersville Historic District  
Name of Property

Cumberland County, VA  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** approximately 48

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	756560	4172880
Zone	Easting	North	ing
2	17	756840	4172880

3	17	757010	4172640
Zone	Easting	North	ing
4	17	756560	4172320

☒ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David A. Edwards, Architectural Historian  
organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date December 4, 1992  
street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3143  
city or town Richmond state Virginia zip code 23219

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cartersville Historic District  
Cumberland County, VA

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### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Cartersville is well-preserved village situated on a bluff overlooking the James River in northern Cumberland County. Encompassing about forty-eight acres, the town is a visually cohesive and mostly residential community. The architecture of Cartersville includes representative examples of several styles and influences from the late eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. Most of the town's buildings are wood-frame and weatherboard dwellings dating from the turn of the twentieth century; however, there are also late-eighteenth- and nineteenth-century dwellings and former taverns, two churches, a few commercial buildings, a post office, and a former school. The village has changed little since the turn of the century. Although once a bustling commercial and transportation center on the James River, the town gradually lost its importance as a trading center when the railroad eclipsed the James River and Kanawha Canal as the leading avenue for transporting regional agricultural goods to distant markets.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The earliest surviving building in Cartersville is most likely the house known as the Deanery (Bldg. 1). Built in the 1780s, before the town was officially designated, the house is a simple Federal-style, one-and-one-half-story, wood-frame dwelling featuring two exterior end and one central brick chimney, nine-over-nine-sash double-hung windows, a porch with square wood columns, and a slate gable roof. The original grant for the land was made to Francis Browne Deane of Galway, Ireland, and totalled over 5,000 acres bordered by the James River, Muddy Creek, and Southam Parish. The Deane family cemetery as well as several contributing outbuildings remain on the property. The Deanery is situated on the largest lot in Cartersville and is substantially set back from Route 45.

A house that dates from the early years of the town's history is the Glaser House (Bldg. 14). Constructed in the 1790s, the house is a well-preserved example of Federal-style architecture. It is a two-story, rectangular, frame and weatherboard house on a Flemish-bond brick foundation. Surviving original features include an exterior end brick chimney laid in Flemish bond, second-story nine-over-nine-sash double-hung windows, and a simple box cornice. The most notable addition is a Colonial Revival porch, which is supported by brick piers and features Ionic columns, a turned balustrade, a central pedimented gable, and a full entablature. The central front doorway features sidelights and a transom.

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Cartersville Historic District  
Cumberland County, VA

Another early house is the Baptist Parsonage (Bldg.9) on High (Main) Street which dates to the 1790s. The two-story wood-frame and weatherboard house is situated on a brick foundation and has one exterior and one interior end brick chimney, nine-over-nine-sash double-hung windows, a simple box cornice, and a one-story frame wing that was added around 1802. The house once featured a wraparound porch that was added at the turn of the century; however, it was removed in the 1920s. The house's main entrance is highlighted by a Colonial Revival-style broken pediment and a four-light transom.

Perhaps the most significant building in the Cartersville Historic District is the Cartersville Tavern (Bldg. 22), built around 1810. Located at the corner of High (Main) Street and Tavern Road, this Federal-style building has a one-story full-length porch with Tuscan columns and is topped by a balustraded deck. The roof is covered in slate and the siding is beaded weatherboard. The tavern was constructed in sections; the original building was the side-passage-plan central block with a large exterior end brick chimney, while the one-story and two-story side wings and rear ell were early additions. A focal point of the town, the former tavern commands an unobstructed view of the James River and the Cartersville Bridge.

The town has few houses dating from the mid- to late 19th century. It was during this time that the railroads were attracting people away from river travel and subsequently Cartersville's economy began to suffer due to the town's dependence on river commerce.

Three of Cartersville's most architecturally interesting buildings are its churches. The Victorian Gothic-style Cartersville Baptist Church (Bldg. 8), located near the west end of High Street, is the most architecturally sophisticated with its square corner tower with louvered belfry and pyramidal roof with pinnacles, and pointed-arched windows and transom over the double doors. In front of the church is a small memorial to a local physician, Nash P. Snead, M.D. erected in 1959 and considered a noncontributing element. Built ca. 1906, the church has been little altered; however, an unobtrusive Sunday school addition was built to the rear in the 1970s.

Directly south of the Baptist church is St. Catherine's Catholic Church (Bldg.7) which was built in 1910. The church building was originally used as a mission school for black children, but was converted into a church after several years. The church is a simple, wood-frame building with projecting gabled front ells, and two separate entrances, each with a rectangular transom. The central front window features geometric-pattern panes and decorative wood mullions. The building is topped by an octagonal louvered belfry with a wood-shingled base.

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Cumberland County, VA

The third of Cartersville's churches is the Cartersville Methodist Episcopal Church South (Bldg. 49) which was built in 1883. A vernacular wood-frame building topped by an octagonal wooden belfry with a polygonal roof, the now vacant church is located on Route 656 (Church Street). The front facade has two separate double doors, a molded cornice, and gable returns.

The current Cartersville Post Office (Bldg. 32) occupies a building that originally served as the Cartersville Presbyterian Church. As early as 1847 this lot was referred to as the church lot, although the present structure was not erected there until 1910. The building features square brick columns, decorative slate in its gable front, a semi-circular transom over the double doors, flared eaves, and brick pilasters. The interior, which features a ceiling covered in pressed metal, has not been irrevocably altered due to its conversion to a post office.

Diagonally across from the Cartersville Tavern on High Street is a small, one-story, brick commercial structure (Bldg. 18) that was constructed around 1900. Although currently vacant, the building was originally built as the Cartersville Bank. The slate gable roof has a box cornice with returns, and the side windows feature segmental brick arches.

Directly across the street from the old Cartersville Bank building is another commercial structure (Bldg. 24). This long narrow building with a front section featuring a pressed metal mansard roof was constructed in 1910 and is said to have been the first commercial automobile garage in Cumberland County. Nearby is a mid- to late-nineteenth-century wood-frame building (Bldg. 27) that served as a tavern and hotel for road- and water-weary travellers. Built in sections, the two-story building has a full-length front two-story portico with tall chamfered posts with sawn brackets, a decorative sawn balustrade, and a cantilevered second-story balcony with a sawn balustrade. The property also features a well-preserved, one-story, frame and weatherboard outbuilding with a slate gable roof and a garage underneath.

Other commercial buildings include a ca. 1940 concrete-block building on the south side of Route 45. This small building (Bldg. 40) has been embellished with a stepped parapet gable front and glass blocks that flank the central entrance. A much larger yet plainer commercial building exists on Route 656 (Church Street). This building (Bldg. 45) was erected in the 1890s and served as a general store for most of this century. A wood-frame commercial structure, it features central double doors, a one-story full-length porch, and large two-over-two-sash double-hung windows.

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Cartersville Historic District  
Cumberland County, VA

Yet another commercial structure exists at the juncture of Route 45 and Route 649 (Main Street). This long and narrow building (Bldg. 36) was constructed in 1915 and occupies a pivotal position at the southern entrance of the village. Next door is a small, brick, ca. 1941 building (Bldg. 35) that once served as a funeral home and is currently a retail establishment.

Cartersville contains three excellent examples of the modified Queen Anne style, a style that was popular at the turn of the century. One example, the Culbertson House (Bldg. 42) located on Route 45, was built around 1910. It has a porch with slender turned posts, fan brackets, and a sawn balustrade. A two-story projecting bay window surmounted by a gable with decorative shingles and large sawn brackets is a prominent feature. Two exterior end chimneys and a slate gable roof are also features of the house.

A similar example of the modified Queen Anne style is the H. T. Harrison House (Bldg. 11) located on High Street. Originally a ca. 1800 two-story frame and weatherboard house with an exterior end brick chimney, a large modified Queen Anne-style addition was built around 1900. The addition features a wraparound porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, and a turned balustrade. The double front door is topped by a five-light transom.

A third example is the Gresham House (Bldg. 17) on High Street. Built around 1910, it is one of the few brick houses in the village. The two-story dwelling has a hipped roof, segmental-arched window heads, an octagonal tower with a polygonal roof, and a small front porch with turned posts and sawn brackets.

Other early-twentieth-century houses include the ca. 1909 W. E. Robinson House (Bldg. 46) located on Church Street and the ca. 1925 J. Caldwell House (Bldg. 34) on High Street. The Robinson House is a two-story, frame and weatherboard, vernacular I house with a five-bay front porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, and a turned balustrade. The Caldwell House is a large, square, 2 1/2-story, frame and weatherboard house with Craftsman-influenced details such as wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, paired six-over-one-sash double-hung windows, and a central front hip-roofed dormer.

Collectively, the architectural heritage of the Cartersville Historic District is an interesting blend of a variety of styles and influences. The town's historic resources range from a late-eighteenth-century farmhouse to a ca. 1940 commercial building. Although not the bustling center of commerce and transportation it once was, Cartersville has remained virtually untouched since the early twentieth century.

Todd Peck/David Edwards



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Cartersville Historic District  
Cumberland County, VA

### CARTERSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

NOTE: BUILDING, OBJECT, OR SITE NUMBER FOR EACH RESOURCE IS KEYED TO SKETCH MAP; ALL RESOURCES ARE CONTRIBUTING UNLESS INDICATED (NC) FOR NONCONTRIBUTING.

#### ROUTE 45 at ROUTE 649

Bldgs. 1-6 The Deanery; 1780s, Federal-style, wood frame house (1) with a modern Site 1 one-and-one-half-story frame outbuilding (2-NC), a frame smokehouse (3) with vertical siding, two board-and-batten chicken coops (4,5), and a log corncrib (6). The Deane family cemetery is also on the property and is a contributing site (site 1).

#### ROUTE 649 - HIGH (MAIN) STREET

21 Bldg. 7 1910, vernacular, wood-frame building; currently the building is occupied by St. Catherine's Catholic Church; originally used as a schoolhouse.

20 Bldg. 8 ca. 1906, Victorian Gothic-style, wood-frame Cartersville Baptist Church.  
Object 1 A stone memorial (Object 1-NC) to Nash P. Snead, M.D., erected in 1959, is located directly in front of the church. see #5003

19 Bldgs. 9-10 1790s, wood-frame house known as the Baptist Parsonage and associated with the Cartersville Baptist Church next door; bldg. 10 is a modern wood-frame garage with a gable roof (NC).

10 Bldgs. 11-13 originally a ca. 1800 frame and weatherboard house with a large, ca. 1900, modified Queen Anne-style addition; currently the H. T. Harrison House (11); bldg. 12 is a one-story wood-frame, shed-roofed outbuilding with vertical siding; bldg. 13 is a frame wellhouse with a hipped metal roof.

9 Bldg. 14 1790s, Federal-style, wood-frame and weatherboard Glaser House with a Colonial Revival-style porch

-30 Woodson's Tavern Site

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- 14-126-3* Bldgs. 15-16 ca. 1795 wood-frame Williams House (15) with Victorian additions and modifications; an early-20th-century, one-story frame garage (16) with corrugated metal cladding.
- 14* Bldg. 17 ca. 1900, brick, vernacular Gresham House with an octagonal corner tower with polygonal roof.
- 14-126-3* Bldg. 18 ca. 1900, brick, commercial building, formerly occupied by the Cartersville Bank.
- 123* Bldg. 19 ca. 1900, vernacular, wood-frame Marsh House.
- 14-126-1* Bldgs. 20-21 ca. 1900, wood-frame, vernacular Booker House (20) with an unusual shed roof; bldg. 21 is a one-and-one-half-story frame and weatherboard outbuilding with a slate gable roof.
- 14-126-2* Bldgs. 22-23 ca. 1810, Federal-style, wood-frame Jetter House (22), originally the Cartersville Tavern; bldg. 23 is a frame and weatherboard smokehouse.
- 14* Bldg. 24 1910, wood-frame, commercial building; originally the Ford dealership in Cartersville.
- 133* Bldg. 25 1970s, concrete-block, commercial building with a raised basement (NC).
- 129* Bldg. 26 ca. 1960, concrete-block, Colonial Revival-style house (NC).
- 1* Bldgs. 27-28 mid- to late-nineteenth-century, wood-frame, vernacular H. B. Pleasants House (27); originally used as a tavern and hotel. Bldg. 28 is a late-nineteenth-century, one-story, frame and weatherboard outbuilding with a garage beneath.
- 14* Bldgs. 29-31 ca. 1915, vernacular, wood-frame J. F. Pleasants House (29) with two shed-roofed wood-frame outbuildings (30,31).
- 132* Bldgs. 32-33 1910, vernacular, brick building (32); originally used as the Cartersville Presbyterian Church, and now houses the Cartersville Post Office. Bldg. 33 is an early-20th-century, one-story, wood-frame garage with a gable tin roof.

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- 18* Bldg. 34 ca. 1925, Craftsman-style, wood-frame Caldwell House.  
*34* Bldg. 35 ca. 1941, Colonial Revival-style, brick, commercial building; originally served as a funeral home.

**ROUTE 45**

- 22* Bldg. 36 ca. 1915, wood-frame, commercial building with an apartment in the rear.  
*37* Bldg. 37 ca. 1900, vernacular, wood-frame Nash House.  
*25* Bldgs. 38-39 ca. 1900 wood-frame Brown House (38) featuring a porch with spindle brackets and turned posts; bldg. 39 is a wood-frame shed-roofed garage with vertical siding.  
*24* Bldg. 40 ca. 1940, concrete-block, commercial building with stepped parapet gable front.  
*38* Bldg. 41 ca. 1920, vernacular, wood-frame Trice House.  
*26* Bldgs. 42-44 ca. 1910, modified Queen Anne-style, wood-frame Culbertson House (42) with a wood-frame, gable-roofed outbuilding (43), and a wood-frame, shed-roofed outbuilding (44).  
*35* *vacan bldg / comm.*

**ROUTE 656 (CHURCH STREET)**

- 11* Bldg. 45 ca. 1890, vernacular, wood-frame commercial building; originally used as a general store.  
*12* Bldgs. 46-48 ca. 1909, wood-frame, vernacular I house (W. E. Robinson House) with a one-story gable-roofed frame outbuilding (47), and a wood-frame gable-roofed corncrib (48).  
*17* Bldg. 49 1883 wood-frame church, now vacant; originally built as the Cartersville Methodist Episcopal Church South with a cemetery (Site 2) adjacent to the church containing gravestones dating from the 1880s.  
Site 2

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Cumberland County, VA

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- 14 Bldg. 50 ca. 1850, vernacular, wood-frame H. B. Pleasants, Jr. House with a porch featuring turned posts and scroll brackets.
- 10 Bldgs. 51-52 ca. 1910 wood-frame Stinnett House (51) with modern shed outbuilding (52-NC).
- 17 Bldgs. 53-54 mid- to late-19th-century, vernacular, wood-frame Healy-Hankins House (53), and a frame shed with vertical siding (54).
- 16 Bldg. 55 ca. 1910, vernacular, wood-frame house with a hipped roof.
- 34 Bldg. 56 1960s, brick, Ranch-style Anderson House (NC)

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 9Cartersville Historic District  
Cumberland County, VA**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Cartersville is a well-preserved village situated on a bluff overlooking the James River in northern Cumberland County, Virginia. The site of Carter's Ferry in the eighteenth century, the small town was founded by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1790. The ferry, river commerce, the construction of the Cartersville Bridge in 1822, and the arrival of the James River and Kanawha Canal in 1851 enabled Cartersville to flourish as an antebellum transportation center for a small region of central Virginia. Bypassed by the railroad after the Civil War, the village economy and population declined due to the preference for the railroad over the canal for the shipment of regional agricultural products to distant markets. The village has changed little since the early twentieth century. An architecturally significant assemblage of historic buildings for Cumberland County and the central Virginia region, Cartersville contains a variety of building types and styles spanning the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Examples include at least four late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century Federal-style dwellings and former taverns, a few vernacular and Colonial Revival nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial buildings, an 1883 vernacular church, a ca. 1906 Victorian Gothic church, a ca. 1910 former schoolhouse, several turn-of-the-century modified Queen Anne-style and vernacular I houses, and one 1920s Craftsman-inspired dwelling.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The town of Cartersville, located 50 miles west of Richmond in the northeast corner of Cumberland County, was established by an act of the Virginia General Assembly on December 16th, 1790. Citizens of Cumberland, Buckingham, and Powhatan counties petitioned the state legislature to establish a town at Carter's Ferry on twenty-seven acres of land owned by John Woodson, surrounding his ferry and tavern. Prior to the petition, Carter's Ferry was a popular crossing point across the James River, and was one of nine posts used for the drawing of army quartermaster stores and ammunition during the American Revolution, under the charge of a Major Claiborne.

While a portion of Cumberland County along the James River is believed to have been granted to Francis Browne Deane of Galway, Ireland, some time in the 18th century, the name "Cartersville" or "Carter's Ferry" seems to have come from a land grant bordering James Powell Cocke's land, the James River, and Muddy Creek, and issued to Robert "King" Carter in 1725. The Carter grant is believed to have incorporated the colonial plantations of Clifton,

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Amphill, Glentivar, and Boston Hill. Nearby, John Carter was issued a grant for 365 acres of land in the Cartersville area, bordering Muddy Creek. Presumably, Carter's Ferry refers to the place where Carter family members would cross the James River on their way from Clifton to the Northern Neck. Rose Cottage (DHR Cumberland County file # 24-68) is still known as the Old Carter Estate.

Sometime before 1790, John Woodson purchased land on the south side of the James River in Cumberland County from Robert "King" Carter, John Carter, Robert Furlong, John Cerasey, and Henry Dillon. Woodson would eventually build a tavern and a series of tobacco warehouses on the northeastern outskirts of Cartersville. Woodson also owned land on the north side of the James River in Goochland County, which he had purchased from Stephen Hughes and Lain [sic] Jones. The 600-acre Goochland property and the operation of the ferry were willed to Woodson's son, John, in 1793.

The 1790 act of the General Assembly that created the village stated, "that twenty-seven acres of land at Carter's Ferry in the County of Cumberland the property of John Woodson" shall be designated a town and "Joseph Carrington, Mayo Carrington, Willis Wilson, James Deane, Walter Warfield, and William Ronald, gentlemen trustees" were to "lay off into lots of half an acre with convenient streets, and establish a town by the name of Cartersville."

Trustees Joseph and Mayo Carrington, residents of Cumberland County, surveyed and laid out the town as prescribed, incorporating at least two existing structures into the modified grid. Both Carringtons, along with the other trustees, each erected a residence in Cartersville by 1795.

Land owner and trustee John Woodson operated a tavern at Carter's Ferry as early as 1784, although the structure known as Woodson's Tavern (later Deane's Tavern) was not completed until 1793. Woodson's Tavern overlooked the James River near the Cumberland landing of Woodson's ferry operation, still called the Carter Ferry, and was a popular stop along the James River for travellers. Later purchased by Francis Deane and called the Deane Tavern, the structure no longer exists. In 1973, the owner of the land sold the site's topsoil to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for use in the construction of the new Cartersville Bridge. Nothing of the original site remains.

The Deanery (Bldg. 1), a residence on the southern outskirts of Cartersville, was standing before the 1790 act as well. The home of town trustee James Deane by 1789, it is believed that the residence was built earlier in that decade by relative Robert Dean [sic], who appears in the Cumberland County Land Tax Books between 1784 and 1788. The original grant for the land

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Continuation Sheet**

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Cartersville Historic District  
Cumberland County, VA

was presumably made to Francis Browne Deane of Galway, Ireland and totalled over 5,000 acres bordered by the James River, Muddy Creek (the current Cumberland/Powhatan county line), and the Cocke land grant. The Deanery sits on the largest lot in Cartersville and was expanded to the south after 1803, doubling the size of the liveable space (Mutual Assurance policy). The Deane family cemetery, as well as several outbuildings, also share the site. (DHR Cumberland County file # 24-26)

On lot # 13 in the center of town on High (Main) Street, trustee Willis Wilson built a wooden dwelling (Glaser House-Bldg.14) by 1795, but sold it to Noton Goodman by 1801 (Mutual Assurance Policy). Still standing, the residence was used as the local Masonic lodge from 1910 until recently, when it returned to its original use as a private residence. (DHR Cumberland County file # 24-43)

On lot # 15, trustee and land surveyor Joseph Carrington erected a residence and store around 1793. This structure may have served as a temporary tavern before the completion of John Woodson's tavern. Sold to John Daniel in 1804 (Mutual Assurance policy), the structure stands today as a private residence (Harrison House-Bldg.11) with additions and alterations on three sides (DHR Cumberland County file # 24-62). Carrington erected a second structure by 1795; this one on lot # 11. A large residence (Williams House-Bldg.15) on Main street, Carrington sold the property to Samuel Wilson by 1814 (Mutual Assurance Policy & DHR Cumberland County file # 24-66). The house has had several Victorian additions and alterations, however, some early interior woodwork survives.

The Cartersville Tavern (Bldg.22), begun around 1810, was the first major competition for the Woodson Tavern. Situated on corner lot # 8, at the intersection of High (Main) Street and Tavern Road, the tavern has gained several additions throughout the years. The original tavern room doubled as the local post office during the Civil War, and remnants of the postal area are still visible, including an original sign. Local tradition claims that Gen. Robert E. Lee received his mail here during periods of the conflict, and that his wife visited him here, staying in one of the tavern's guest rooms (DHR Cumberland County file # 24-28).

By 1836 Cartersville was a prosperous town of 300, with one attorney and two physicians. Fifty residences were recorded, as were a school, five stores, three groceries, two tanyards, one saddler, and one common denominational church. A merchant mill, its location unknown, serviced 20,000 to 30,000 bushels annually. The town prospered partially due to the Cartersville connection lock of the James River and Kanawha Canal.

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The Cartersville connection lock was actually located across the James River in Pemberton in Goochland County, but Carter's Ferry, and later the Cartersville Bridge, provided convenient access to the town. The ferry would bring tobacco stored in Woodson's warehouses from the Cumberland side to the canal, while virtually anything sold along the canal could be brought into Cartersville for sale in the stores. The Cartersville connection lock, overgrown but still intact, was a unique lock for the James River and Kanawha Canal, possessing three sets of gates. Apparently, the contractor constructed the lock too short to hold standard canal bateaux, and the lock had to be lengthened. The center gates were left opened and unused.

The first bridge structure across the James River at Cartersville was begun by the Cartersville Bridge Company in 1819. A wooden covered bridge with five stone piers and two stone abutments, it was completed in early 1822, and replaced the old ferry service. Either destroyed by flood or collapsed within twenty years, the bridge was reconstructed in 1842 under the direction of Joseph N. Carrington, son of the Cartersville trustee. The second bridge was destroyed in the mid-nineteenth century, and not replaced until 1883.

During the interim years, the James River and Kanawha Canal Company operated a ferry near the location of the early ferry. The 1883 bridge, built on the piers of the 1822 effort, was completed with a combination of iron and wood, and was listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 as an excellent example of a Pratt truss bridge in Virginia. Unfortunately in 1972 the bridge was destroyed by flooding caused by tropical storm Agnes, and replaced in 1973 with a conventional concrete and steel span. Two of the 1883 iron and wood spans, as well as all of the 1822 piers remain in situ.

Cartersville's declining importance as a trading and transportation center is directly related to the closing of the James River and Kanawha Canal in 1880 and the use of the canal's towpath for the rails of a new railroad line along the north bank of the James River on the Goochland side. Without a stop on the new rail line, Cartersville was literally passed over by progress. Opportunities for merchants and the town's population declined rapidly during the late nineteenth century, and it was not until the first half of the twentieth century that the town's economy and population stabilized.

Today the village appears much as it did in the early twentieth century. Along with dwellings, churches, a schoolhouse, and commercial buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, there are several early taverns and dwellings that serve as reminders of the town's role as a transportation center during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

James Sved/David Edwards



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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

UTM REFERENCE: 5. 17/756380/4172560

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Cartersville Historic District are shown as the heavy black line on the map entitled "Cartersville Historic District Map 2".

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Cartersville Historic District encompasses the entire unincorporated town of Cartersville, excluding noncontributing properties where possible. The district excludes large parcels of unimproved riverbottom land along the James River as well as farmland and noncontributing commercial properties to the south, west, and north of the village.

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

The Deanery, Route 45, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County, Virginia  
David Edwards, photographer  
August 1986  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking west  
Photo 1 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 8694;32)

Cartersville Tavern, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County, Virginia  
Todd Peck, photographer  
August 1991  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking southeast  
Photo 2 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 12420;14)

Glaser House and High Street, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County, Virginia  
Todd Peck, photographer  
August 1991  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking northeast  
Photo 3 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 11408;12)

High Street dwellings, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County, Virginia  
Todd Peck, photographer  
August 1991  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking northwest  
Photo 4 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 12420;12)

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Cumberland County, VA

Cartersville Baptist Church, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County, Virginia  
Todd Peck, photographer  
August 1991  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking north  
Photo 5 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 12420;4)

Methodist Episcopal Church South, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County  
Todd Peck, photographer  
August 1991  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking north  
Photo 6 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 12420;10)

U. S. Post Office, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County  
David Edwards, photographer  
August 1986  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking south  
Photo 7 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 8694;22)

former Cartersville Bank, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County  
Todd Peck, photographer  
August 1991  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking northeast  
Photo 8 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 12420;15)

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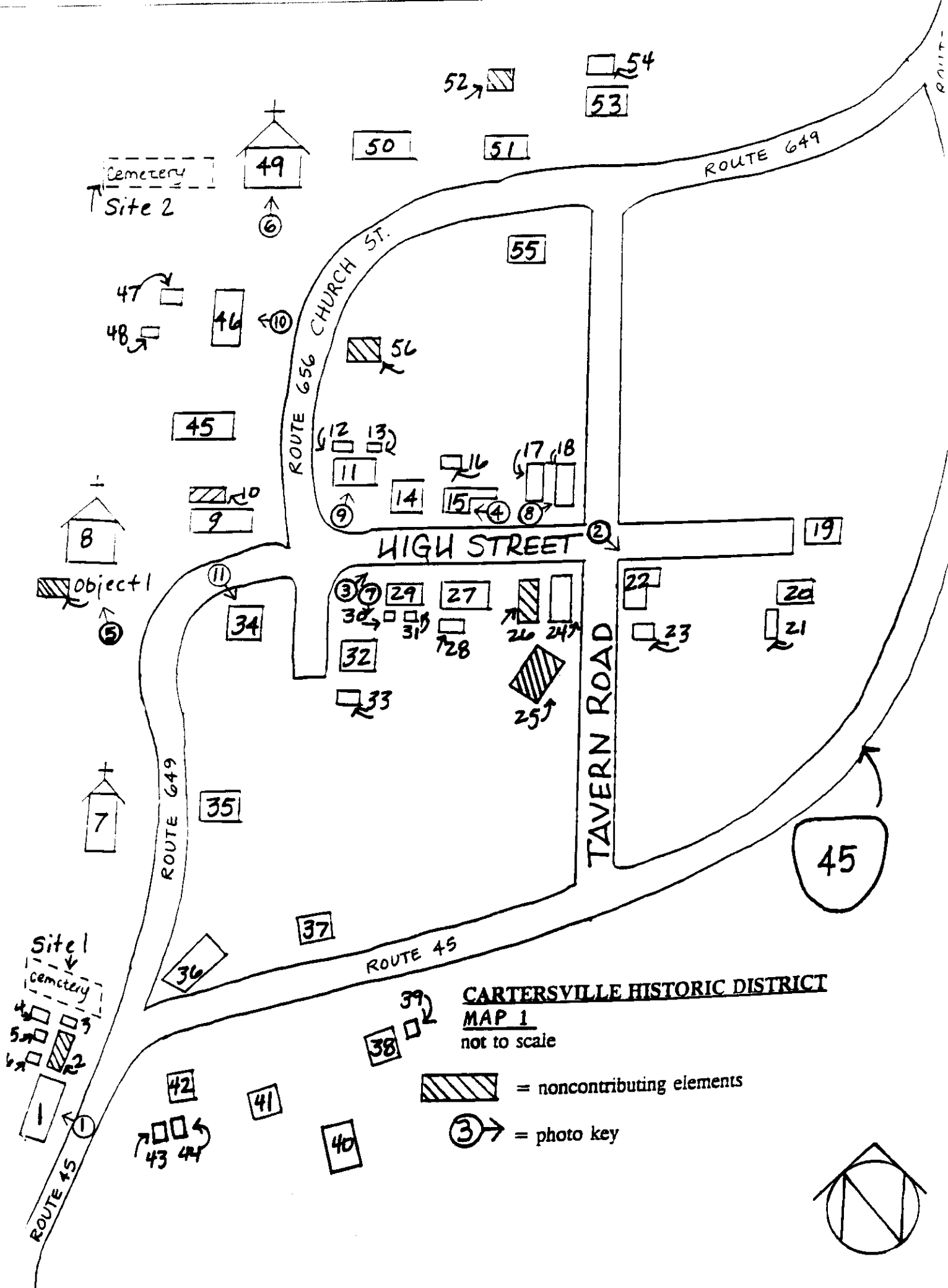
Cartersville Historic District  
Cumberland County, VA

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
H. T. Harrison House, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County  
Todd Peck, photographer  
August 1991  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking northeast  
Photo 9 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 11408;13)

W. E. Robinson House, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County  
Todd Peck, photographer  
August 1991  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking west  
Photo 10 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 11408;19)

J. Caldwell House, Cartersville Historic District  
Cartersville, Cumberland County  
Todd Peck, photographer  
August 1991  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia  
View looking southeast  
Photo 11 of 11 (VDHR Neg. No. 12420;19)



**CARTERSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**MAP 1**  
not to scale

-  = noncontributing elements
-  = photo key



4176

5359 11 NW  
(LAKESIDE VILLAGE)

4174

4172

CARTERSVILLE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT,  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY,  
VIRGINIA

1. 17/756560/4172880
2. 17/756810/4173880
3. 17/757010/4174480
4. 17/756560/4172880
5. 17/756380/4172560

